

Howland Wood - Curatorial

Cathcart, Wallace H.

1919-1926

(Western Reserve Historical Society

Cleveland, OH]

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# The Western Reserve Historical Society

ESTABLISHED IN 1867

10700 EUCLID AVENUE

Cleveland, Ohio March 31, 1919.

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	S. S. WILSON

Mr. Woods, Curator,  
The American Numismatic Society,  
New York.

Dear Sir:-

I have just been going through some Colonial paper money and there are a few duplicates which I am sending to you and if there are any in the lot you do not happen to have, just take them out. I do not know whether you have some with serial letters or whether you care to have the different serial letters, but I am trying to make our collection as complete as possible.

The first opportunity I get I shall get out a bunch of our duplicates and send to you so that I may even up with you on the exchange I made some time ago.

Sincerely yours,

*W. H. Cathcart*

Vice President & Director.



April 5th, 1919.

Mr. Wallace H. Cathcart,  
The Western Reserve Historical Society,  
10700 Euclid Avenue,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Cathcart:-

Your favor of March 31st came to hand the other day enclosing the lot of Colonial paper money. I am keeping thirteen out of the lot, and am returning the balance to you. We go into details, serial letters, &c. In fact we go into signatures as well. I trust we will have the opportunity of going through some more of your duplicates when you get around to it.

I beg to remain,

Yours very truly,

Curator.



September 17th, 1919.

Mr. Wallace H. Cathcart,  
Western Reserve Historical Society,  
10700 Euclid Avenue,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Cathcart:-

Mr. Robert P. King, Room 13, Scott Building, Erie, Pennsylvania, perhaps the most ardent collector of Lincoln medals and one worth while your getting in touch with, has been very anxious to work on our list of Lincoln medals. We would much appreciate it if you could send to him at the above address the Lincoln material of ours that you have. This includes the card catalogue and the book of photographs.

I beg to remain,

Most sincerely yours,

Curator.



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# The Western Reserve Historical Society

ESTABLISHED IN 1867

10700 EUCLID AVENUE

Cleveland, Ohio Sept. 25, 1919.

## TRUSTEES

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WEBB C. HAYES	J. H. WADE
	S. S. WILSON

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,  
The American Numismatic Society,  
Broadway bet. 155th and 156th Sts., New York.

Dear Mr. Wood:

I know that you will be surprised when I tell you that I have actually sent on the cards and photographs to Mr. King, but such is the case. If apologies would do any good I would make them profusely, but it is just a case of not having stenographers enough to do the work that I pile on them and also the time to verify the work after it is done. I have made up a full set of cards for the Society and also have made a complete index to the collection. I had hopes that I might assist you some time in getting out a catalogue of the Lincoln Collection. I am anxious to have one published and of course it naturally would come from your Society, as I presume you have by far the largest collection.

I have made corrections on your cards, where we had the medals, also corrected from the photographs, as to the lining up of the inscriptions, punctuation, capitalization, etc. Also <sup>whereas</sup> you have used the word "draped" almost entirely not distinguishing between a bust that simply had a drape thrown over it and one that has clothing. In our case I have changed the word to "clothed". Also changed the word "naked" to "nude". I really think the arrangement by size is the most satisfactory for those using it as a check list. A general introduction of the medals at large, which could take the proportion of a brochure, then follow with a list of medals and an index that would give the numbers under the different subjects like the different campaigns, tokens, etc. would answer. The



Mr. Wood -2.

Ferrotypes and the smaller tokens could be grouped together. Of course the ideal one would be one with photographs of the medals. It would be expensive, but still I think those who are interested in the subject would prefer it that way.

I do not know how I can thank you for the use of these cards but they have certainly been of great assistance to me.

Sincerely yours,

*W. H. Fairbank*  
Vice President & Director.

*Enclose voucher for my dues  
as a member.*



October 1st, 1919.

Mr. Wallace H. Cathcart,  
Western Reserve Historical Society,  
10700 Euclid Avenue,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Cathcart:-

Your letter came the other day stating that you had sent the cards and photographs on to Mr. King. Mr. King, as I wrote you before, is very much interested in the subject and you will find him a very valuable man if you care to correspond with him. As a matter of fact I think he can give you as much information as any one on Lincoln medals.

I very much doubt if we will do anything more on the Lincoln material in the way of publishing. At the present moment there is no member closely in touch with the Society who is interested in the subject, and our funds for publishing are very much restricted. Of course we are always ready to help any one in this undertaking. I want to thank you for the corrections, &c. that you have made, and I have no doubt that you found plenty to correct. I was never satisfied with the descriptions on our cards. I attempted in places to go over them but never had the time to finish these up. Listing by size is neither the ideal nor the scientific arrangement, nevertheless it is the easiest arrangement for a finding list. A catalogue defeats its own purpose if it takes too much effort to locate anything in it.

I received your check for your dues and credited you with this amount.

I remain,

Very truly yours,

Curator.



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# The Western Reserve Historical Society

ESTABLISHED IN 1867

10700 EUCLID AVENUE

Cleveland, Ohio Oct. 6, 1919.

## TRUSTEES

E. M. AVERY	RALPH KING
S. P. BALDWIN	WM. G. MATHER
C. W. BINGHAM	PRICE MCKINNEY
A. T. BREWER	D. Z. NORTON
E. S. BURKE, JR.	WM. P. PALMER
W. H. CATHCART	DOUGLAS PERKINS
A. S. CHISHOLM	JACOB B. PERKINS
J. D. COX	F. F. PRENTISS
WM. G. DIETZ	JNO. L. SEVERANCE
JAS. R. GARFIELD	AMBROSE SWASEY
C. A. GRASSELLI	CHARLES F. THWING
WEBB C. HAYES	J. H. WADE
	S. S. WILSON

Dr. Howland Wood, Curator,  
The American Numismatic Society,  
New York City.

Dear Dr. Wood:

We have just had presented to us two large coin cases like you have only with a little improvement to them, having a protection on the end of the drawers so that if you pull them out you can expose the full width of the drawer without any danger of it dropping to the floor.

Now in ordering the trays for them, we have samples of those you use, and also in other places, but I want to know if you think black is the most satisfactory color to use. Would the coins show up better in any other shade. Possibly we cannot get them in another shade. The black looks all right for the gold and silver coins but it seems to me the copper ones show up very poorly against the dark surface.

I know you are the storm center for the latest things in the numismatic world and I would be pleased to hear from you before I place my order. Am I correct in my memory that Denison Manufacturing Company made these for you? I am anxious to get to work as soon as possible to put our medals and coins in their new home. Will you tell me about what the cost is and what you have found to be the right proportion to order the different sizes?

Thanking you in advance for any aid that you can give, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

*W. H. Cathcart*  
Vice President & Director.



October 9th, 1919.

Mr. Wallace H. Cathcart,  
The Western Reserve Historical Society,  
10700 Euclid Avenue,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Cathcart:-

I am very glad to know that you have got those two large coin cabinets. I rather imagine where they came from as Mr. Swasey was going quite thoroughly into the matter awhile ago. I am hoping to get to Cleveland some time and will certainly look over with interest all of the things you have.

We have given a good deal of thought to the color of the small coin boxes, and in every instance have felt that black is the all around best color. For exhibition purposes you do not want a color that is too glaring or so bright that it overbalances the coin. Our exhibition cases are black lined and black is consequently the most harmonious. A deep maroon would be second choice but copper coins do not look good with this color. I have seen various shades of blue used which makes a very pleasing showing with certain select coins but are unsatisfactory for the general run.

The Boston Museum of Fine Arts use a light grey box. Personally I have never cared much for this color. White is too glaring and easily soiled. You can always have a small card fit the opening of the box of either gray or white if you want to bring out a dark or copper coin to better advantage. This however makes a spotty exhibit.

For the coins kept in the cabinets I think the black is more satisfactory than any other color.

Today these boxes are expensive. Our last order of five thousand small ones cost two cents each or twice what they formerly did. We have had these boxes made for some years by F. Rudnick, 53 West 14th Street, New York City. Dennison has never made any of these for us though they have made them for the Essex Institute and the Museum of Fine Arts. I think you could get these made in Cleveland as well as anywhere by some concern that specializes in small boxes and novelties, such as dinner favors, &c.



The sizes we use, inside measurements not including space used for labels, are 1 inch square,  $1\frac{3}{8}$ ",  $1\frac{3}{4}$ ", 2",  $2\frac{5}{16}$ ",  $2\frac{3}{4}$ ", 3",  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " and 4". We also have two other sizes for badges  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $2\frac{1}{4}$ ", and  $2\frac{1}{4}$ " x  $3\frac{3}{4}$ ". The larger sizes of course will cost more than the smaller ones, and most manufacturers do not care to handle orders of less than a thousand each of the different sizes.

Very truly yours,

Curator.



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# The Western Reserve Historical Society

ESTABLISHED IN 1867

10700 EUCLID AVENUE

Cleveland, Ohio

February 9th, 1921.

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WEBB C. HAYES	J. H. WADE
RALPH KING	S. S. WILSON

Dr. Howland Wood, Curator,  
American Numismatic Society,  
New York City.

My dear Dr. Wood:

Can you tell me if the enclosed rubbing is of a coin  
or what it is? It is a silver piece and I have made a rubbing of both  
the reverse and obverse. There is a square hole in the four corners.

I will greatly appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

*Wallace H. Cathcart*  
Vice President & Director.

*Must be genuine*



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## The Western Reserve Historical Society

ESTABLISHED IN 1867

10700 EUCLID AVENUE  
Cleveland, Ohio

March 14, 1921.

## TRUSTEES

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W. H. CATHCART	JACOB B. PERKINS
J. D. COX	F. F. PRENTISS
WM. G. DIETZ	JNO. L. SEVERANCE
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WEBB C. HAYES	J. H. WADE
RALPH KING	S. S. WILSON

Dr. Howland Wood,  
American Numismatic Society,  
New York

Dear Mr. Wood:

I know you are authority on the Indian Peace Medals.

Among a collection of Washington medals submitted to be my Henry Chapman is a Peace medal that I have seen before in his office and which you are probably acquainted with.

The Obverse has the bust of Washington facing right in a double<sup>pearl</sup> beaded line running around it. In the middle - The Father of his country, George Washington.

On the Reverse is the regular tomahawk and pipe across ~~and~~ the hands clasped, and Peace and Friendship in the center, below the date 1840. Chapman pronounces it lead. It seems to be a little harder than lead as there is a crack in the reverse of it that would signify a harder metal than lead.

Have you ever seen it and can you give me an idea as to its value? Our collection of Washington medals runs up now between 12 and 1500, I believe, although I have not counted them recently. We have added quite a number this year. Evidently Mr. Chapman had it a number of years because his letter from the man he purchased it of was written back in 1895.

Sincerely yours,

*W. H. Cathcart*  
Vice President & Director.

Number 246

344 Chapman

Dec 9 1920

Lot 107



March 16th, 1921

Mr. W. H. Cathcart  
10700 Euclid Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Mr. Cathcart:

The Washington Indian Peace Medal about which you write is a very rare medal. It is the third or fourth one of which I know.

The piece sent to you was in the Hunter Collection, sold by S. H. Chapman, December 9th, 1920, Lot 103, and was bought by Henry Chapman at Seventy Dollars. We did not bid on this as we considered it too poor a specimen; and the price of Seventy Dollars I personally consider too high, but then one cannot fix any standard of prices on very rare things. One sold several years ago in one of the Elder's sales, in absolutely perfect condition, for Seventy-five dollars, I think; and at that time was considered a good price.

The metal is undoubtedly pewter: the two I have seen are in this metal. Pewter, as you know, is often much harder than lead.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HJ/E



May 12th, 1921

W. H. Cathcart, Esq.

The Western Reserve Historical Society  
10700 Euclid Ave. Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Mr. Cathcart:

In clearing up some correspondence I find a letter from you dated February 8th. I do not know if this were answered as I was away for a month or so at the time of its arrival.

The piece of which you send a rubbing is a modern production and has no significance whatsoever. If I remember correctly, I have seen these linked two or three, one above the other, for watch fobs.

Apologizing for the delay in replying to your letter, I am

Very truly yours,

Curator

Hw/E  
Enc.



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C. A. GRASSELLI	CHARLES F. THWING
WEBB C. HAYES	J. H. WADE
	S. S. WILSON

January 27, 1922.

Mr. Howland Wood,  
Curator, The American Numismatic Society,  
Broadway and 156th St.,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

We are short volume 49 of the American Journal of Numismatics. We want to complete the set, as we have the rest of it in binding, with this single exception.

I wish you would send us a copy of this volume.

Sincerely yours,

*W. H. Cathcart*  
Vice President and Director.

WHC:LO

*Sent as gift*



January 30th, 1922.

Mr. W. H. Cathcart,  
The Western Reserve Historical Society,  
10700 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, O.

Dear Mr. Cathcart:-

Your favor of January 27th  
at hand, and under separate cover we are send-  
ing you Volume 49 of the Journal, which please  
accept with our compliments.

Would your Society be inter-  
ested in a representative collection of Mo-  
hammedan coins. We have had left here to look  
over and to sell a very large collection form-  
ed in Persia. It is especially rich in the  
earliest coins of Caliphate, Seljuke and Mongol  
and certain Indian coins found in Persia. I  
could make up a collection ranging anywhere from  
a few hundred dollars to two or three thousand  
dollars. The pieces are all attributed, and if  
you could interest any one in the collection I  
would much appreciate it.

Very truly yours,

Curator.



April 3rd, 1926

Mr. Wallace H. Cathcart  
Western Reserve Historical Society  
10700 Euclid Ave. Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Mr. Cathcart:

Some time ago, we had turned over to us a number of German decorations, of which we retained several. Our instructions were to sell those which were not desired by the Society and the proceeds from the sale were to be placed to the credit of our Purchase Fund.

I am wondering if your Society would be interested in this collection, and am taking the liberty of enclosing a list of the Decorations. You will note that I have placed against the medals the prices - these are the prices which were paid for the pieces by the man who turned the collection over to us. Should you see your way clear to purchasing the collection as a whole, we should be glad to let you have all the medals listed for \$250.00.

Very truly yours,

Enc.

Curator